

The above invention has been described in connection with an x-ray machine, however the broader aspects of this invention apply methods for operating other machines that take a picture of the internal anatomy of a body such as MRI scanners, and CT scanners, Ultrasound machines, etc.

I claim to have invented:

1. The method of monitoring the operations of a machine that takes pictures of the internal anatomy of a body, and/or of the operator of said machine, and/or of the examination being performed by said operator using said machine comprising:

providing one or more computers having at least one memory,

controlling said one or more computers to perform the following operations:

storing in said memory a standard procedure, for said machine, or for said operator, or for said examination, applicable to the taking of a picture for at least one medical reason,

entering in a memory of said one or more computers a procedure, for said machine, or for said operator, or for said examination, relative to the actual taking of a picture of a body part of a patient,

performing in said one or more computers the step of analyzing and/or calculating the data from said one or more computers,

providing a computer output from said one or more computers disclosing the results of any analysis and/or computation performed on said data.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, comprising:

determining whether any part of the monetary price, involved in the preparation of and/or the actual taking of the picture, should be, or should not be, added to the cost of the examination.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, comprising:

determining whether the operator, has made, has not made, an error during the actual taking of the picture.

4. A method as defined in claim 3, comprising:

determining whether any part of the monetary price, involved in the preparation of and/or the actual taking of the picture was or was not due to operator error.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, comprising:

determining how many of a particular examination have been performed.

6. A method as defined in claim 5, comprising:

determining how much money a particular number of examinations produce.

7. Apparatus for monitoring the operations of a machine that takes pictures of the internal anatomy of a body, and/or of the operator of said machine, and/or of the examination being performed by said operator using said machine comprising:

one or more computers having at least one memory,

means for controlling said one or more computers to perform the following operations:

storing in said memory a standard procedure, for said machine, or for said operator, or for said examination, applicable to the taking of a picture for at least one medical reason,

entering in a memory of said one or more computers a procedure, for said machine, or for said operator, or for said examination, relative to the actual taking of a picture of a body part of a patient,

means in said one or more computers for analyzing and/or calculating the data from said first computer,

means for producing a computer output from said one or more computers

disclosing the results of any analysis and/or computation performed on said data.

8. A method as defined in claim 7, comprising:

determining whether any part of the monetary price, involved in the preparation of and/or the actual taking of the picture, should be, or should not be, added to the cost of the examination.

9. A method as defined in claim 7, comprising:

determining whether the operator, has, or has not, made an error during the actual taking of the picture.

10. A method as defined in claim 9, comprising:

determining whether any part of the monetary price, involved in the preparation of and/or the actual taking of the picture, was, or was not, due to operator error.

11. A method as defined in claim 7, comprising:

determining how many of a particular examination have been performed.

12. A method as defined in claim 11, comprising:

determining how much money a particular number of examinations produce.

13. Apparatus for monitoring the operations of a machine that takes pictures of the internal anatomy of a body, and/or of the operator of said machine, and/or of the examination being performed by said operator using said machine comprising:

one or more computers each having at least one memory,

one or more of said computers having a program to perform the following operations:

in said memory storing a standard procedure, for said machine, or for said operator, or for said examination, applicable to take a picture for at least one medical reason,

said memory of said one or more computers having a program to perform the procedure, for said machine, or for said operator, or for said examination, relative to the actual taking of a picture of a body part of a patient,

a program in said one or more computers for analyzing and/or calculating the data,

said one or more computers having a program that enables it to produce the results of any analysis and/or computation performed on said data.

14. A method as defined in claim 13, comprising:

determining whether any part of the monetary price, involved in the preparation of and/or the actual taking of the picture, should be, or should not be, added to the cost of the examination.

15. A method as defined in claim 13, comprising:

determining whether the operator, has made, has not made, an error during the actual taking of the picture.

16. A method as defined in claim 15, comprising:

determining whether any part of the monetary price, involved in the preparation of and/or the actual taking of the picture, was, or was not, due to operator error.

17. A method as defined in claim 13, comprising:

determining how many of a particular examination have been performed.

18. A method as defined in claim 17, comprising:

determining how much money a particular number of examinations produce.

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